[English]

Accommodation to Judges/Advocates of High Courts

576. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that many judges/advocates of High Courts are not having proper accomodation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b) Section 22A(1) of the High Court Judges (Condition of Service) Act, 1954 provides that every Judge shall be entitled without payment of rent to the use of an official residence. It is for the respective State Government to provide rent free residence to all Judges of its High Court. However, due to shortage of proper accommodation, some of the Judges of the High Courts have not been provided with residential accommodation. For the advocates of High Courts, there is no statutory requirement to provide official residence to them.

(c) The Central Government has been reiterating to the State Governments from time to time, to provide proper accommodations to all Judges of High Courts. The Central Government is also providing financial assistance on plan side to all States and Union Territories under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme which includes construction of courts and residential buildings for High Court Judges.

Loan given By N.Bs

577. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) loan given by Nationalised Banks to large, medium and small scale industries in the country during the 8th plan State-Wise, industry-wise and year-wise;

(b) the percentage of loan given to small scale sector to the total loan disbursed during the same period; and

(c) the loans outstanding against these sectors, State-wise and sector-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

Refinance to Kerala State Cooperative Bank by NABARD

578. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any action on the letter of Kerala Government regarding NABARD's refusal to refinance facilities to the Kerala State Cooperative Bank and the Kerala State Cooperative Agricultural and Rural Development Bank from March 1997 onwards; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the State Government/State Co-operative Bank for revamping the Co-operative credit structure on sound lines. The MoU, inter-alia, contains a covenant whereby the Chief Executive Officers of Co-operative institutions could be appointed/ replaced only in consultation with NABARD. This has consequently been incorporated as one of the terms and conditions governing sanction/release of refinance by NABARD and it has been stipulated that non-compliance with this requirement will lead to stoppage of refinance.

In so far as Kerala is concerned, the State Government has passed orders for replacing the Chief Executives of both Kerala State Cooperative Bank (KSCB) and Kerala State Co-operative Agricultural and Rural Development Bank (KSCARDB) without prior consultation with NABARD. NABARD has, therefore, suspended the release of refinance to both the institutions, under all lines of credit, in terms of the relevant covenant governing sanction/release of refinance facility. However, subsequent to the discussions held by Chairman, NABARD with senior officials of the State Government and assurance given by them that they would abide by the various covenants of MoU entered into with NABARD, refinance facilities were restored by the end March, 1997.